

From: Wayne Olsen <oceanguyolsen@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 4:04 PM
To: DES SBCC
Subject: Building Codes Supporting Rapid Electrification of New and EXISTING Residential and Commercial Buildings

External Email

Thank you for your previous actions of adopting electrification codes for new commercial and multi-family high-rise residential buildings. Those actions are a great step, but we must go much further, faster. I strongly encourage your most aggressive options to adopt building codes to electrify ALL commercial and residential properties, existing as well as new construction.

As a 30-year retired Naval oceanographer and meteorologist, followed by 9 years of teaching these subjects, including climate change, at Pierce College, I am convinced by the overwhelming scientific evidence that the world, meaning ALL of us, must take every opportunity we can to reduce our carbon emissions as rapidly as possible. The Paris Climate Accord international goals, our national goals, and State goals of 50% percent reduction of emissions by 2030 and at least net-zero emissions by 2050 must be achieved if we have ANY chance of saving the world as we know it for our descendants. I am not joking or exaggerating.

These goals cannot be met without rapid adoption of building codes, including modification of even existing buildings, to ultimately eliminate use of natural gas. Fortunately, we have the tools to achieve this with highly efficient heat pumps for indoor heating/cooling, hot water, and induction cooking, plus extra resilience from locally generated solar power. I implore you to adopt building codes across the board to implement these solutions, soonest.

By experience, I know this can work. At my previous home, I had solar panels installed had produced more electricity annually than my family consumed, with the remainder returned to the grid. In my current smaller home, I have a heat pump, NO natural gas, an EV in my garage, and this senior community has begun installing solar panels on its larger unobstructed buildings. Not only is this solution good for the environment, it is also cheaper and healthier for the consumer.

Thank you,

Wayne Olsen
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